



OFFICE OF MAYOR VIRG BERNERO
124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE – NINTH FLOOR
LANSING, MI 48933

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 1, 2015

CONTACT: Randy Hannan
517-483-4147

LPD Begins Body-worn Camera Pilot Project

(LANSING) – Mayor Virg Bernero and Lansing Police Chief Mike Yankowski today announced the start of LPD's body-worn camera pilot project. Beginning this week, several different models of the cameras will be deployed on a trial basis to determine the best technology for Lansing police officers and to get practical experience in the use of the cameras.

"Body cameras are an emerging technology that promises to strengthen police-community relationships as well as providing evidence for criminal prosecutions," said Mayor Virg Bernero. "I look forward to the results of the pilot program as we move forward to equip our officers with the latest technologies to help keep our community safe."

Chief Yankowski noted that LPD will test three brands of body cameras (L3, Digital-Ally and Taser). All three brands are similar in function and cost, but there are differences in the handling of the video storage and how the video data is stored and accessed.

A group of officers will test each of the brands and report on the pros and cons of each to LPD Administration. This testing will help the department evaluate and eventually purchase the best device for officers to use. The selected officers are from the Traffic Unit and Platoon Three Uniform Patrol (5 PM to 3 AM). Fourteen cameras will be part of the test, which will last 30 to 60 days.

Once the testing is completed, LPD will review the results and start the procurement process with full deployment expected in the late fall of this year. The use of the devices will be closely monitored and recorded video will be treated as evidence, which means it will only be used for official purposes and will be retained on secure servers in the same fashion as the department's existing patrol dash camera video. Video from the testing will be retained using the same guidelines as dash camera video. Any release of the video will follow these guidelines as well.

LPD officers participating in the pilot project will determine when to activate the cameras during law enforcement related duties. There will be circumstances when the cameras are not activated, particularly when there is an expectation of privacy for the parties involved. The officers will be guided by departmental policy, but will use their good judgment on when a recording is made.

The pilot program will assist LPD in developing final policies and procedures on the use of the body cameras. The department will work with county prosecutor's offices and other partners to be sure best practices are being followed in all aspects of the use of cameras and video evidence that results from their use.

###